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Objectives of a LAC may include the following:

- Identify gaps in services
- Recommend potential additions to services within the community
- Analyze and discuss problems with service providers, advocacy groups, public officials and the general public
- Facilitate accurate and timely communications between the local community and other governing entities
- Assess the effectiveness of local mental health services and suggest ways services may be more effective
- Serve as a catalyst and facilitator in solving local mental health service problems
- Organize and coordinate needed services in the community
- Educate the local community on mental health issues

If you have or someone you know has been impacted by depression, anxiety, or other serious mental health problems, your mental health Local Advisory Council needs your voice, ideas, skills and talents.

## Local Advisory Council (LAC)

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"Community to Community...  
making a difference across Montana  
for people with mental illness"

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- **What is a Local Advisory Council?**  
A coalition of community members interested in assessing, planning and strengthening behavioral services in their community.

- **What does it mean for my community?**  
Those impacted by the effects of mental illness can ensure that their voice, suggestions, and ideas can make a difference in how services are planned and provided.

- **Who can participate?**  
All those concerned and interested in how persons with mental illnesses are treated and helped to achieve independence and health.

## RESOURCES

For more information on LAC Policies and Guidelines or LAC contact information, visit the Addictive and Mental Disorders Division webpage at: [www.dphhs.mt.gov/amdd/](http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/amdd/) click on "Local Advisory Council and Service Area Authority Information" (bottom left of page). Or, you may contact one of the AMDD Program Officers in your area:

Andrew Boyer, Billings .....670.6910  
Antonia Klein, Miles City.....853.4421  
Jane Wilson, Great Falls .....788.8167  
Kenny Bell, Anaconda .....498.7358  
Vicky Varichak, Missoula .....241.7369  
Melissa Higgins, Supervisor.444.9344

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Alternative accessible formats of this publication will be provided upon request, or for more information, contact the Addictive and Mental Disorders Division at (406) 444-3964.

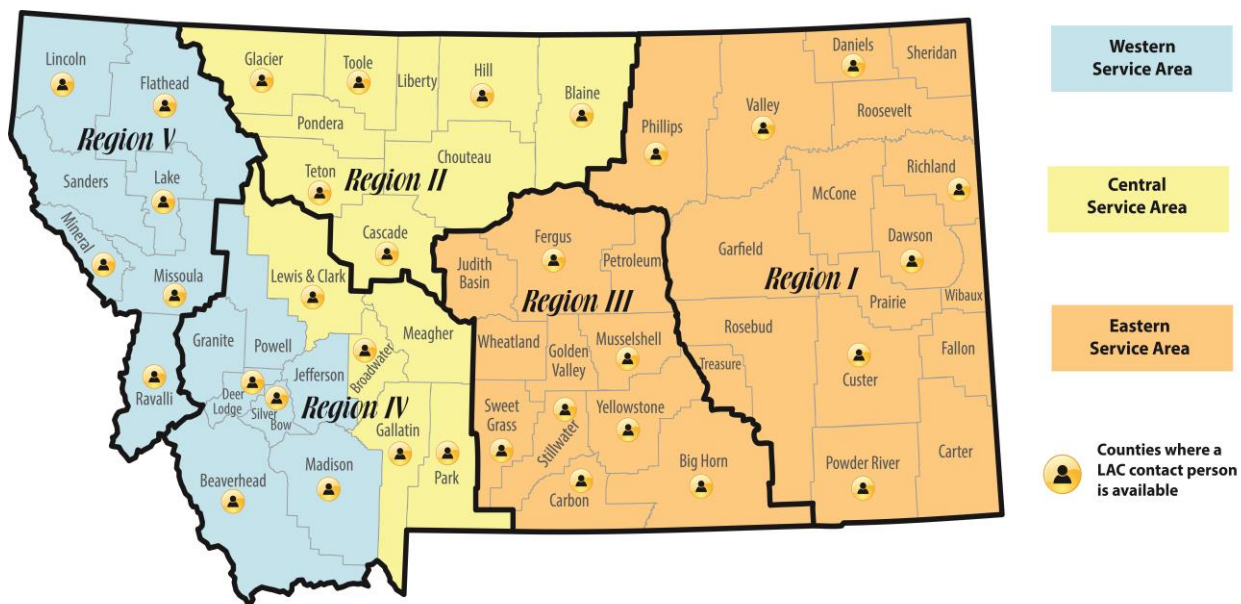


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The need for and value of Local Advisory Councils was identified by the 1999 Legislature. LACs are one of the elements of a system of public mental health care that emphasizes the importance of local participation in planning for mental health services in the community.

The purpose of a LAC is to serve as the foundation for assessing, planning and strengthening public mental health services in the community and to provide input and recommendations to other governing entities.

LACs are not intended to duplicate or replace service delivery agencies but to coordinate and collaborate with other councils, boards and advisory groups involved with the planning, delivery and evaluation of mental health services.



If you provide services directly or in a support capacity, your participation is important to comprehensive local planning and recommendations. Community hospitals, mental health and chemical dependency counselors, county commissioners, local law enforcement, community employers, human service agencies, and school personnel are invited to participate on LACs.